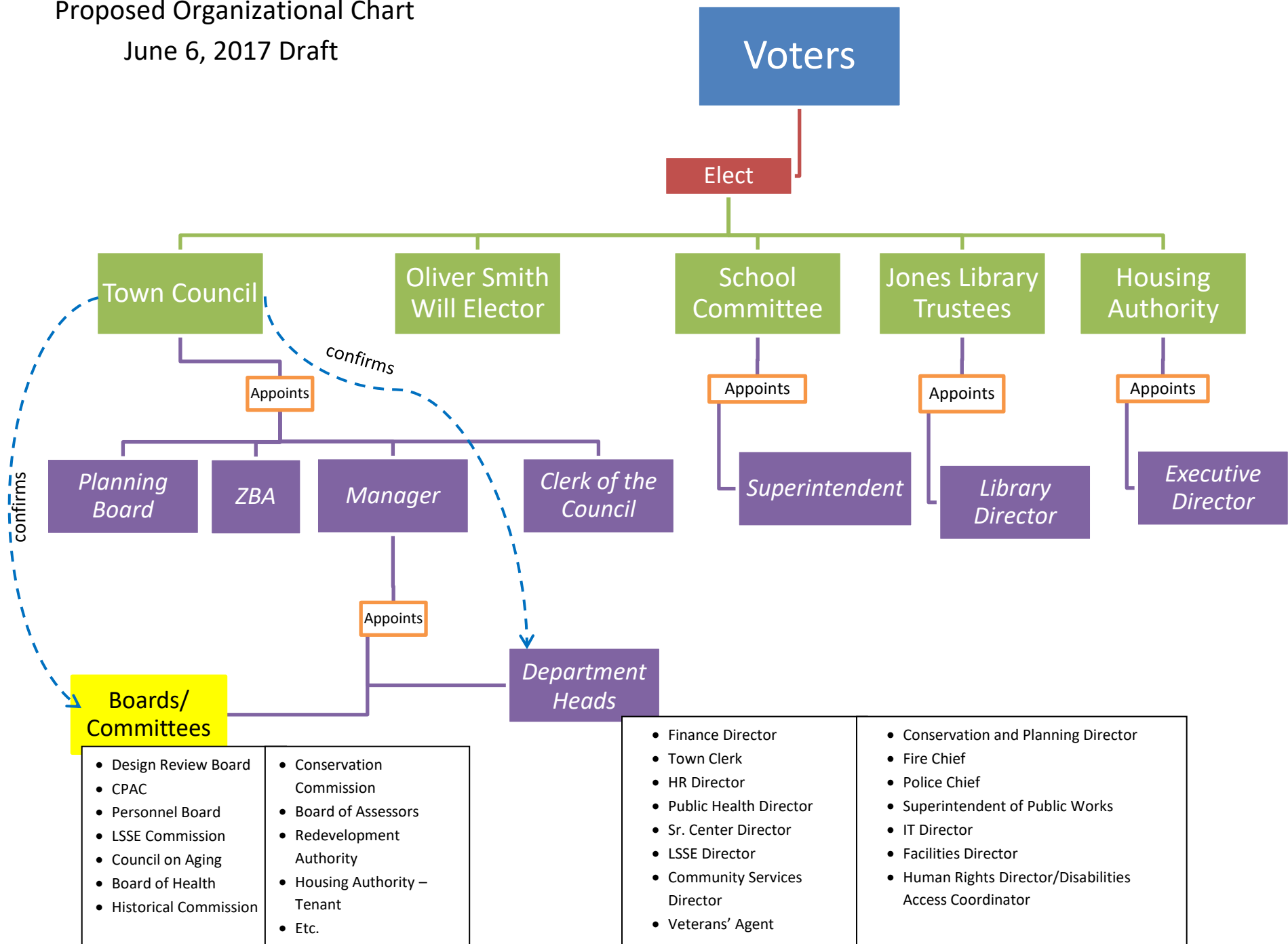


Town Of Amherst

Proposed Organizational Chart

June 6, 2017 Draft



Current Charter Commission Draft Charter Proposal

Legislative Branch (7-2 Charter Commission Vote)

- 13 member Town Council
 - 3 at-large; 10 ward—2 from each of 5 wards (each ward = 2 precincts)
 - 2 year terms for all Councilors
 - Exercises policy leadership and legislative powers of the Town
 - Appoints Manager, Planning Board, and ZBA
- Reasons for both at-large and ward councilors
 - At-large can focus on representing the views of the entire town, not just a small area; Ward reps can focus on engaging with residents of their ward, and make sure that concerns about matters that might have an effect on 1 or 2 wards will still be represented on the council

Executive Branch (7-2 Charter Commission Vote)

- Manager
 - Executive in charge of implementing Town Council policy and day-to-day operations
 - Appoints Department Heads, all boards and commissions, Redevelopment Authority
 - State of the Town Address, annually (with Council President)
- Community Participation Officer
- Reasons for Manager
 - Professional management; hired on the basis of expertise; less variation than mayor; known quantity

Administrative Organization

- Master Plan
 - Adopted by Town Council as foundation for planning/zoning discussions
 - Creation requires resident participation from the outset
- Planning Board reduced to 7 members
- Board of License Commissioners
- Redevelopment Authority appointed, not elected

School Committee and Other Elected Offices

- School Committee stays 5 members; term reduced to 2 years
- Library Trustees stays 6 members; term reduced to 2 years
- Housing Authority—change to 3 elected (from 4), with 1 tenant member appointed; terms reduced to 4 years
- Oliver Smith Will Elector – term increased to 2 years

Finance and Fiscal Procedures

- Retain Budget Coordinating Group and Joint Capital Planning Committee
- Considering participatory budgeting - residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget

Elections

- Moved to November (from March) and held every two years, between President and Governor elections
- Runoff elections or ranked-choice voting to ensure majority vote for elected officials

Resident Participation Opportunities and other Relief Mechanisms

- Public forums on budget, master plan, and schools, annually
- Ward meetings with councilors, at least 2 per year
- Citizen petition – request consideration by Council
- Citizen initiative – require consideration by Council, and if rejected, the voters
- Citizen veto – citizen overrule of Council action
- Citizen recall of elected officials